

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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HEARING SCHEDULED AND SPECIAL MASTERS APPOINTED IN MATTER CONCERNING COMMISSIONER TAYLOR CULVER

On October 19, 2016, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Commissioner Taylor Culver, a commissioner of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The hearing has been scheduled to begin on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 95 7th Street, in San Francisco, California. The hearing will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court: Honorable Victoria G. Chaney, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division One; Honorable George J. Abdallah, Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin; Honorable Theodore M. Weathers, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Mark A. Lizarraga and Assistant Trial Counsel Bradford L. Battson will serve as Examiners for the commission. Commissioner Culver is represented by Attorneys Arthur J. Harris and James A. Murphy of Murphy Pearson Bradley and Feeney, San Francisco.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the commission with a report containing their findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the commission. If the commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to impose discipline as provided in the California Constitution. Charges that the commission determines are not proved will be dismissed.

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The commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The chairperson is Anthony P. Capozzi, Esq. Commission members Ms. Mary Lou Aranguren and Hon. Erica R. Yew are recused in this matter.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov>.